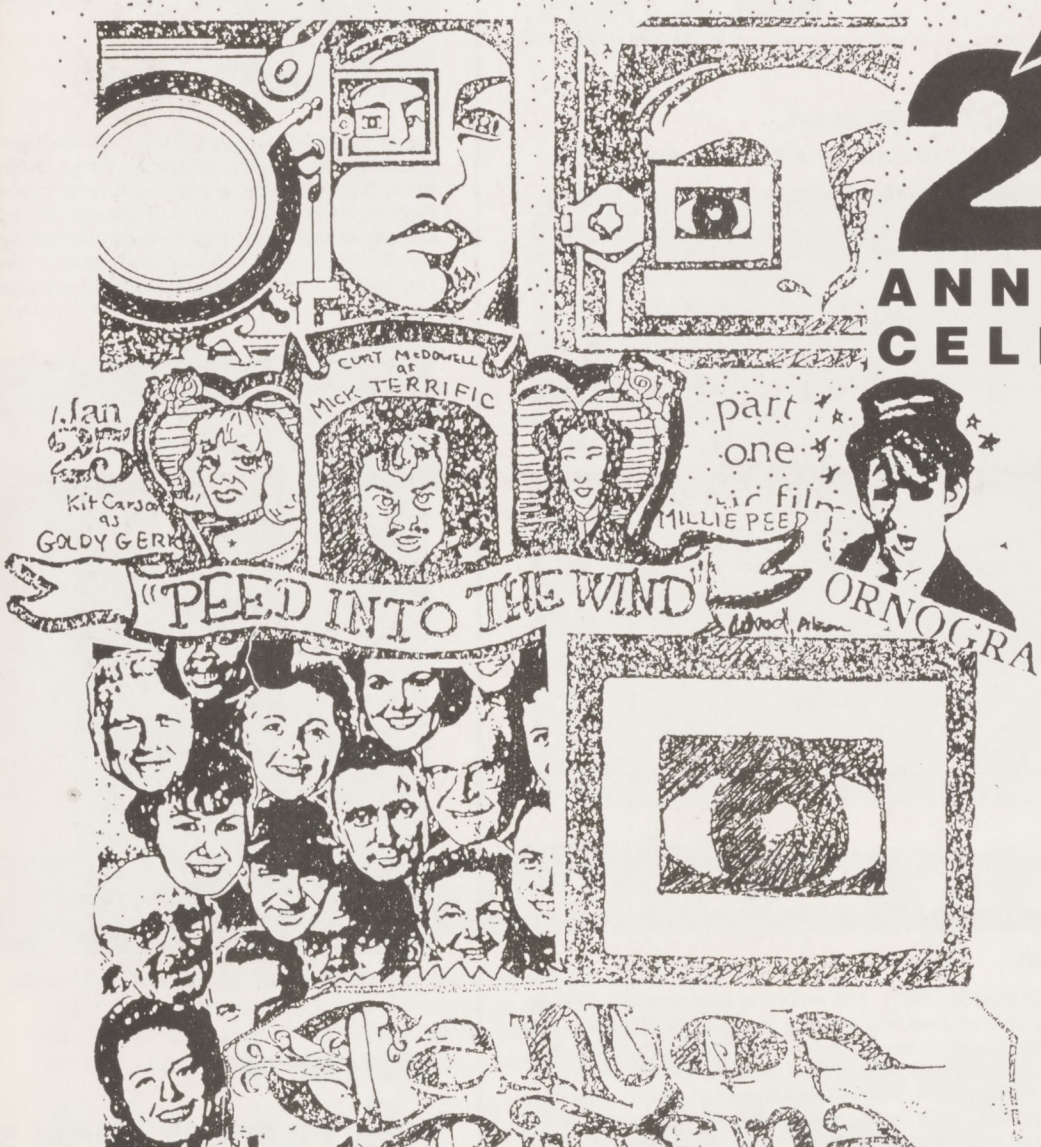
cinematheque

SUMMER 1987 SEASON

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



FEATURING

25th ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE

Highlighting films from the '40s to the '80s

Film installations at Media Gallery

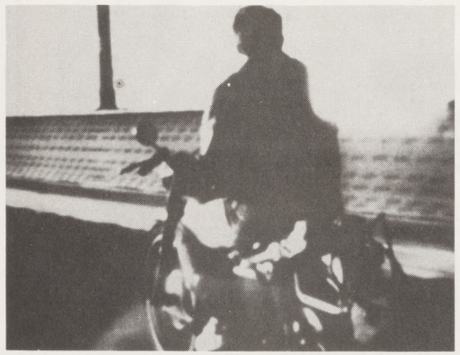
Panels on Criticism and Exhibition

NEW WORK BY:
Abigail Child, Chick Strand, Larry Jordan, Bruce Elder, and others

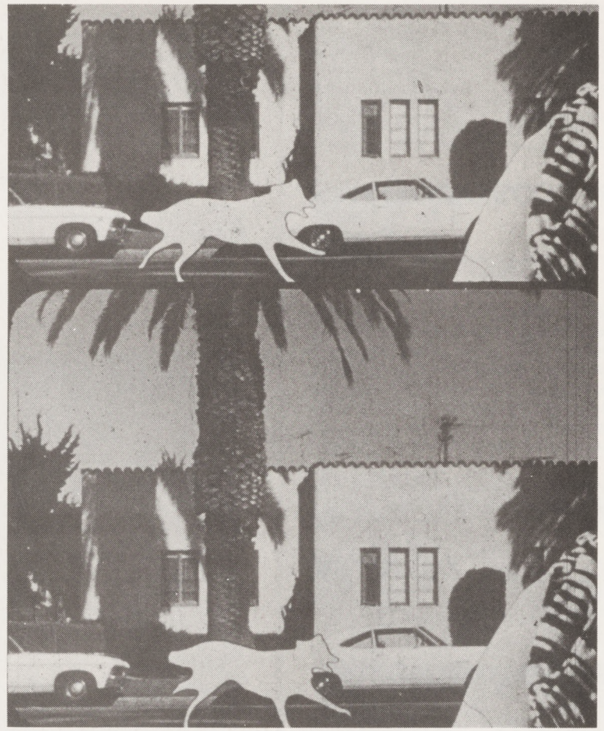
Films from *Scratch*

A Jon Jost Overview and more . . .

ANGEL CITY by Jon Jost (May 14)



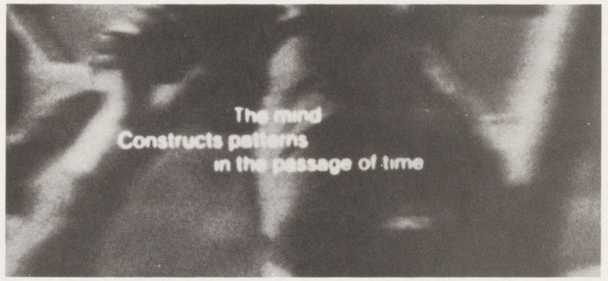
MASS FOR THE DAKOTA SIOUX by Bruce Baillie (May 24)



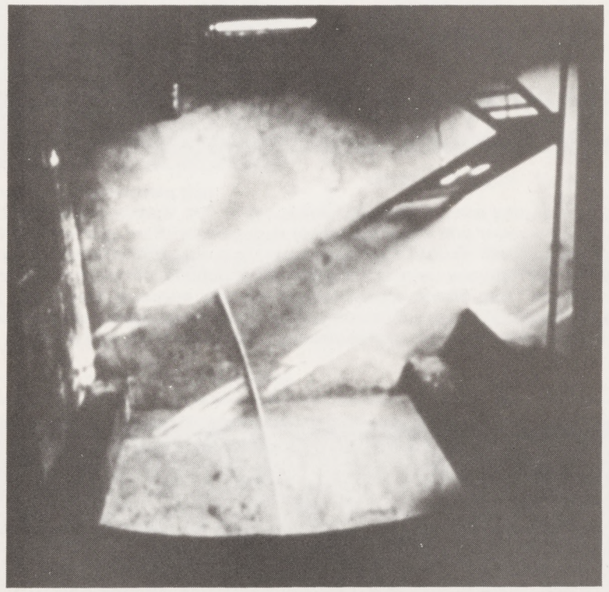
FOREGROUNDS by Pat O'Neill (June 14)

THE POTTED PSALM by James Broughton and Sidney Peterson (May 24)

MARKET ST. 1905 (May 24)



ILLUMINATED TEXTS by Bruce Elder (May 7)

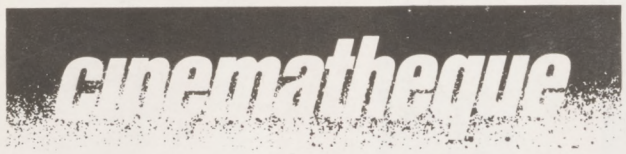


Florence by Peter Hutton, ***(June 11)***

SPLEEN by Peter Herwitz (June 21)

COVERT ACTION by Abigail Child (June 13)

GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM by Su Friedrich (June 18)



San Francisco Cinematheque
480 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 558-8129

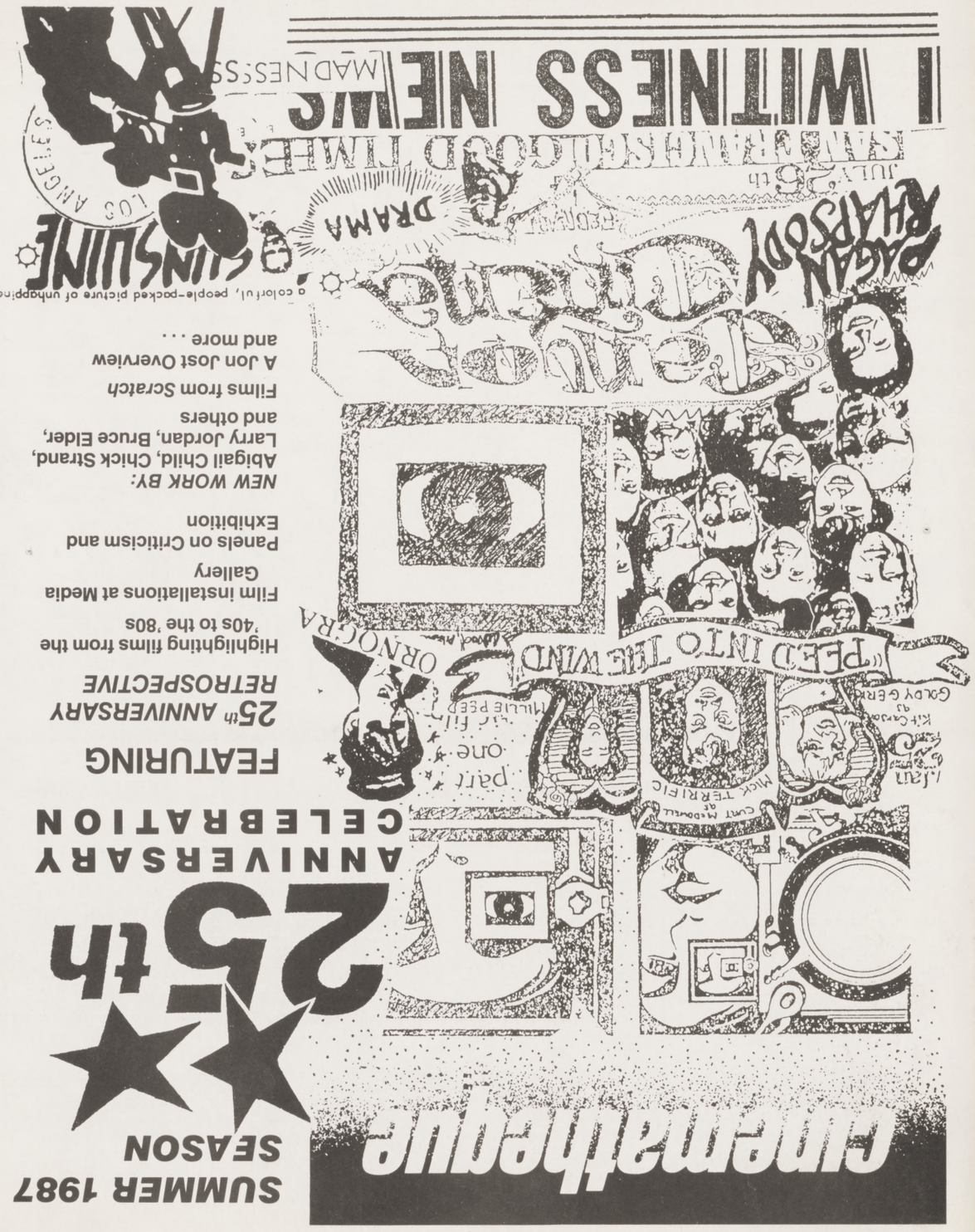
Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #12393
San Francisco
California

193
MICHAEL WALLIN
3828 22ND ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94114

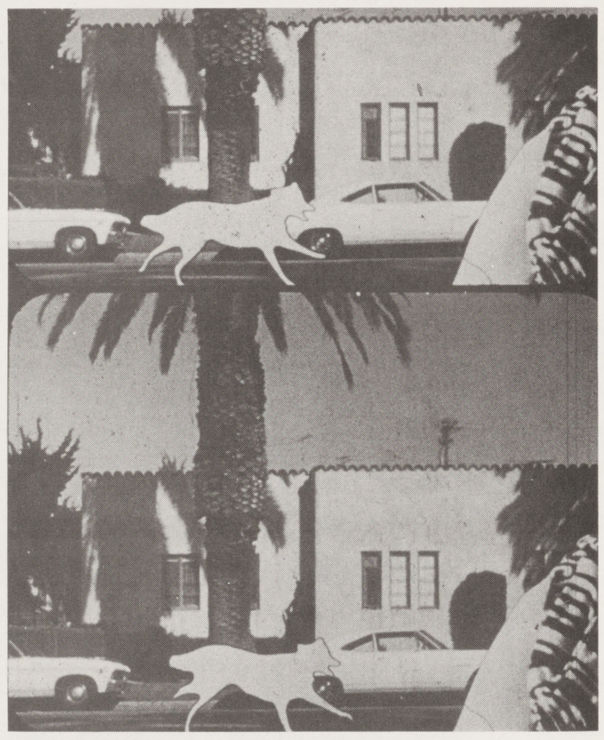
Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #12393
San Francisco
California

193
MICHAEL WALLIN
3828 22ND ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94114

cinemathequeSan Francisco Cinematheque
480 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 558-8129



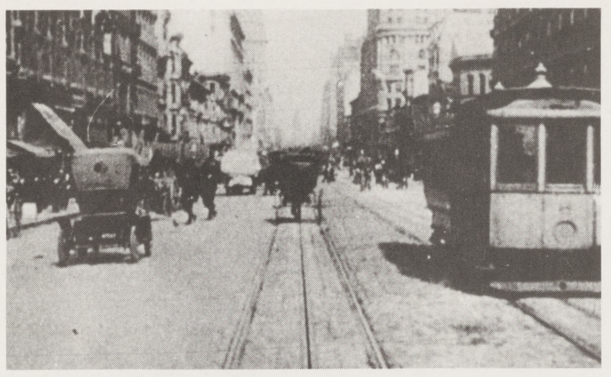
ANGEL CITY by Jon Jost (May 14)



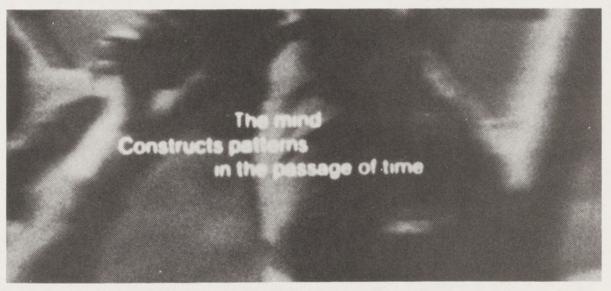
FOREGROUNDS by Pat O'Neill (June 14)

MASS FOR THE DAKOTA SIOUX by Bruce Baillie (May 24)

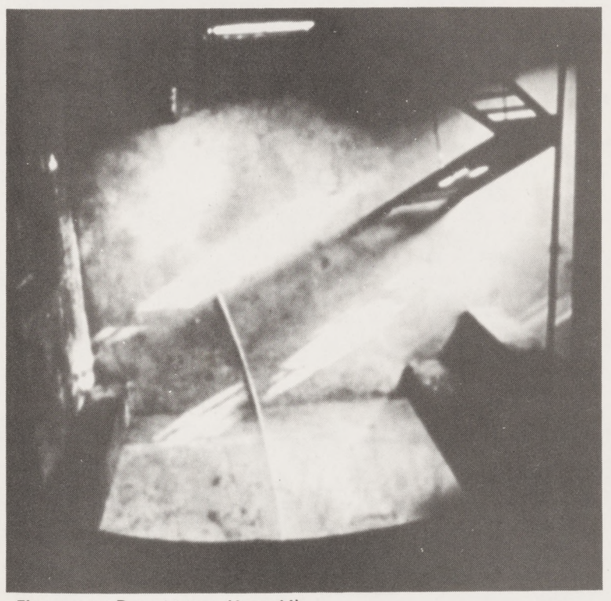
THE POTTED PSALM by James Broughton and Sidney Peterson (May 24)



MARKET ST. 1905 (May 24)



ILLUMINATED TEXTS by Bruce Elder (May 7)



Florence by Peter Hutton, **(June 11)**

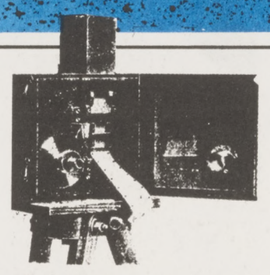
SPLEEN by Peter Herwitz (June 21)

COVERT ACTION by Abigail Child (June 13)

GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM by Su Friedrich (June 18)

San Francisco

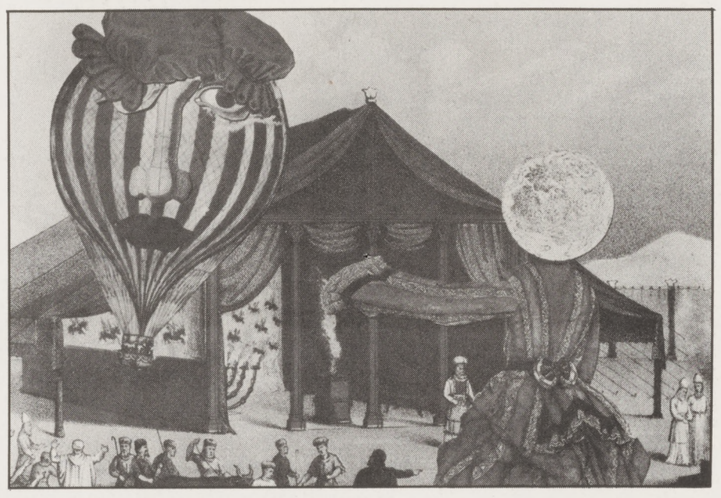
cinematheque



25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1986 marked the 25th year that Cinematheque, previously Canyon Cinematheque, has been presenting independent films in the Bay Area. It has changed directorship and location many times, yet has always remained dedicated to showing the most original and daring works of film art being made. Cinematheque began as an unassuming backyard gathering of aspiring filmmakers and their friends, but soon swelled into one of the liveliest centers of film energy of the 1960s. Sparked by Bruce Baillie, Chick Strand, Robert Nelson and others, it moved into the old Intersection during 1967, and presented underground films on a regular basis. In 1971 Cinematheque changed location to the San Francisco Art Institute, and its programming continued to expand to include work by filmmakers from all parts of the world, inter-disciplinary forms, personal narratives and documentaries — often to new audiences or in collaboration with art groups at other locations. In May and June we will pay tribute to the rich heritage of filmmaking which the Cinematheque represents, and to the many people who have kept it alive as one of the world's longest-running and premiere showcases of independent film.

ALL SHOWS AT S.F. ART INSTITUTE, 800 CHESTNUT ST., 8:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



SOPHIE'S PLACE by Larry Jordan (May 16)

May 7 — Thursday

BRUCE ELDER'S *ILLUMINATED TEXTS*

Filmmaker Bruce Elder in person.

Since 1975, Canadian filmmaker Bruce Elder has been working on a mammoth film cycle which, when complete, will run about twenty hours, and will attempt to set forth a history of consciousness from the time of Isaac Newton to the present. "***Illuminated Texts*** presents itself as a great debate between nature and technology, unity and dissolution, the divine and the demonic, an irrecoverable past and the terrible velocity of time." — Bart Testa, ***Canadian Images***. Bruce Elder lives in Toronto where, in addition to making films, he teaches, writes, and organizes film programs.

Illuminated Texts (1982), 180 min., color, sound, Bay Area premiere.

May 10 — Sunday

NEW FRENCH FILMS FROM *SCRATCH*

Filmmaker Yann Beauvais in person.

Yann Beauvais has been at the center of Paris independent film activity for several years, and is co-founder (with Miles McKane) of ***Scratch*** magazine and film series and ***Light Cone***, France's most active experimental film cooperative. Tonight Beauvais will present a selection of his own films (including 3 for double-projection) and work by 5 other French filmmakers. Films: ***Enjeux, Amoroso, RR, Sans Titre 84, 1985*** by Yann Beauvais; ***Systema*** by F. Thomas; ***In/Side/Out 1-6*** by J. Burford; ***Juste Avant Midi*** by P. Auger; ***Carlton Dekker*** by D. Wharry, and ***Two Films*** by F. Devaux & M. Amarger.

May 13, 14 — Wed. & Thurs.

A JON JOST OVERVIEW

SPECIAL LOCATION: Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street

May 13: ***Chameleon*** at 6:15 & 10:00; ***Last Chants for a Slow Dance*** at 8:00

May 14: ***Angel City*** at 6:30 & 10:00; ***Bell Diamond*** at 8:00

Jon Jost is one of America's foremost independent directors. His films partake of a spirit akin to Godard, subverting genres like the detective story to indict the fabric of American society. This 2-day retrospective featuring 4 of Jost's most provocative films is presented in collaboration with the Film Arts Foundation and the Roxie Cinema.

May 16 — Saturday

SOPHIE'S PLACE BY LARRY JORDAN

Filmmaker Larry Jordan in person.

Larry Jordan has long been known as a pioneering independent animator whose recreations of 19th century imagery combine a rare visual wit and nuance with bizarre surreal juxtapositions. ***Sophie's Place*** is the culmination of many years' work and his most ambitious effort to date: "From the first 'pun' of the film of 'place' thru to the return to the 'garden' at the end of the film, "Sophie's" as nearly perfect as 'epic' can BE, as 'dailiness'-so-perceived (i.e. the transformations, the alchemy, yes) always is." — Stan Brakhage.

Sophie's Place (1986) by Larry Jordan, 90 min., color, sound by Jordan.

June 13 — Saturday

ABIGAIL CHILD/ERWIN PISCATOR

Filmmaker Abigail Child in person.

Abigail Child will premiere her new film, ***MAYHEM*** (1987), and show the final version of ***Perils*** (1986) and ***Covert Action*** (1984). "Perversely and equally inspired by de Sade's ***Justine*** and Dziga Vertov's sentences about the satirical detective advertisement, ***MAYHEM*** is my attempt to create a film in which Sound is the Character and to do so focusing on sexuality and the erotic. Not so much to undo the entrapment (we fear what we desire; we desire what we fear), but to frame fate, show up the rotation, upset the common, and incline our contradictions towards satisfaction, albeit conscious." — A.C. Child has also selected an early Soviet sound film to show, ***Revolt of the Fishermen*** (1934) by Erwin Piscator.

Cinematheque Celebrates 25 Years

May 21 — Thursday

FILM & THE CRITICAL EYE — PANEL DISCUSSION

Special Price: $2.00

Just as filmmaking and exhibition opportunities have undergone tremendous changes, so too have the avenues and approaches of film criticism. What are the possibilities for criticism today, and what are its values and purposes? This panel will discuss the complex interaction between writer and filmmaker, critic and artist. Panelists include: Jim Hoberman, filmmaker, teacher at New York University and film critic for the ***Village Voice*** and other publications; Marjorie Keller, writer (***The Untutored Eye***), filmmaker and editor of ***Motion Picture***; and Peter Wollen, filmmaker, author of ***Signs and Meanings in Cinema***, and contributor to the British magazine ***Screen***. Moderator is David Gerstein, co-director of the Cinematheque and co-editor of ***Cinematograph***.

May 24 — Sunday

SAN FRANCISCO: SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF A CITY

San Francisco has a rich tradition of personal filmmaking dating to the 1940s. Many have been drawn to its free-spirited atmosphere to explore their unique visions, frequently using the city's geography as a backdrop. Their films have often been years ahead of their time and still carry meaning and resonance for us today. Tonight's program provides an overview of some of the ways that San Francisco's look and feel have been represented during the last 40 years. Films: ***Market Street, 1905*** (anonymous); ***Sausalito*** by Frank Stauffacher; ***The End*** by Chris MacLaine, ***Mass for the Dakota Sioux*** by Bruce Baillie; ***North Beach I*** by Henry Hills, ***Visions of a City*** by Larry Jordan.

May 28 — Thursday

FILM EXHIBITION IN THE '80s — PANEL

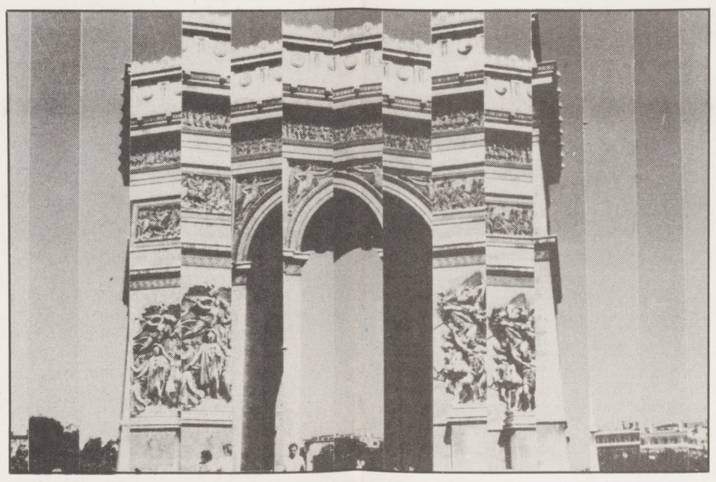
Special admission: $2.00

Public presentation of artistically challenging and unfamiliar films has been hotly debated among filmmakers and the critical press during recent years. What are the criteria used in selecting films for exhibition? To what extent do programmers consider public response in determining the direction of their program? Can a greater appreciation for film be developed through exhibition, including new approaches to inter-disciplinary events? Panelists who will discuss these and related issues include: John Hanhardt, Curator of Film & Video, Whitney Museum of American Art, Brenda Webb, Executive Director of Chicago Filmmakers, and Steve Anker, Program Director of the S.F. Cinematheque. The moderator will be Albert Kilchesty, filmmaker and Program Director of the Los Angeles Filmforum.

May 31 — Sunday

"ART AND CINEMA"

Frank Stauffacher's pioneering "Art and Cinema" program at the SF Museum of Modern Art was one of the first showcases for avant-garde film in the United States. Tonight's films are among the many that received premieres at "Art and Cinema", including Broughton and Peterson's ***The Potted Psalm***, the film that set off the post-WW II Bay Area filmmaking explosion. Films: ***Introspection*** by Sara Kathryn Arledge; ***Early Abstractions*** by Harry Smith; ***The Potted Psalm*** by James Broughton & Sidney Peterson; ***Fireworks*** by Kenneth Anger; ***On the Edge*** by Curtis Harrington; and ***Bells of Atlantis*** by Ian Hugo.



SANS TITRE 84 by Yann Beauvais (May 10)

June 4 — Thursday

NEW FILMS BY CHICK STRAND

Filmmaker Chick Strand in person.

The Cinematheque is proud to welcome back Chick Strand, co-founder of Canyon Cinema along with Bruce Baillie and one of the major voices in personal filmmaking. Strand has produced a body of filmwork that blends an interest in ethnographic documentary with a sensuous lyrical expressiveness. Tonight's program features 5 Bay Area premieres that show her continuing involvement with Mexican life, magic realism and tribal evolution. Films: ***Anselmo and the Women***; ***By the Lake***; ***Fake Fruit***; ***Coming Up for Air***; and ***Artificial Paradise***.

A party to celebrate the Cinematheque's 25th anniversary and Chick Strand's visit will follow tonight's program.

June 7 — Sunday

THE '60s

The '60s was a time of almost revolutionary change. America's youth questioned every tradition, and San Francisco's filmmakers reflected the playful, adventurous spirit of the decade with a refreshing irreverence. Tonight's program, selected with the assistance of Edith Kramer (manager of Canyon Cinema from 1967 to 1970) represents the films that were a regular part of the Cinematheque's program during this time. Films: ***Catching the Asian Carp*** by Bill Allan & Bruce Nauman; ***Offon*** by Scott Bartlett; ***FFFTCM*** by Will Hindle; ***I Change I Am the Same*** by Anne Severson; ***Schmeerguntz*** by Gunvor Nelson & Dorothy Wiley; ***Tung*** by Bruce Baillie; ***Oh Dem Watermelons*** by Robert Nelson with Steve Reich; ***Be-In*** by Jerry Abrams; ***Happy Birthday Lenny*** by Lenny Lipton; ***George Dumpson's Place*** by Ed Emshwiller; and ***Cosmic Ray*** by Bruce Conner.

June 11 — Thursday

"SOME OF MY FAVORITE PREMIERES"

Films from the 1970s programmed by Carmen Vigil

For tonight's program we have asked Carmen Vigil, Co-Director of the Cinematheque between 1975 and 1982, to select a group of films from those he programmed: "During the eight years or so I programmed, there were hundreds of films which had their first West-Coast showings, scores of which I would count among my favorites. The films on this program are some of my "discoveries" by young filmmakers who continued to grow artistically and make films of value." Films: ***Traces*** by Barbara Linkevitch, ***Highway Landscape*** by J.J. Murphy, ***Breath*** by Andrei Zdravic, ***Cue Rolls*** by Morgan Fisher, ***Florence*** by Peter Hutton, ***Dub Film*** by Doug Wendt, ***Ikarus*** by Chuck Hudina, ***The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar*** by Janis Crystal Lipzin, ***Cants From Natural History Works*** by Gary Adkins and ***L'Amico Fried*** by Roger Jacoby.

June 14 — Sunday

YEARS OF TRANSITION — THE 1970s

During the 1970s the Cinematheque's focus broadened to include the work of filmmakers from all parts of the United States and Europe, while continuing to provide a showcase for new Bay Area films. This evening's program offers an overview of the films shown during these years.

Subpoena for Sabine by Ed Jones, ***Siamese Twin Pinheads*** by Curt McDowell, ***Foregrounds*** by Pat O'Neill, ***Pause!*** by Peter Kubelka, ***Soma*** by Sandra Davis, ***LMNO*** by Robert Breer, ***An Evening at Home*** by Gail Camhi, ***New Improved Institutional Quality . . .*** by Owen Land, ***Closer Outside*** by Vincent Grenier, and ***Tree Again*** by Kurt Kren.

June 18 — Thursday

A NEW GENERATION: FILMMAKING IN THE '80s

By the 1980s a new generation of committed filmmakers was clearly emerging, many of whom had begun working during the past ten years. Some embraced cultural and political issues, maintaining formally challenging and highly individual approaches; others worked in a more private, intimate vein.

Recuerdos de Flores Muertas by Willie Varela, ***Morning Procession in Yangchow*** by Daniel Barnett, ***Gently Down The Stream*** by Su Friedrich, ***Displaced Person*** by Dan Eisenberg, ***AmbiValence*** by David Gerstein, ***From Romance to Ritual*** by Peggy Ahwesh, ***Oh China Oh*** by Leslie Thornton, ***A & B in Toronto*** by Joyce Wieland and Hollis Frampton, and ***Fearful Symmetry*** by Michael Wallin.

June 20 & 21 — Sat. & Sun.

FILM INSTALLATIONS: 8 ARTISTS

SPECIAL LOCATION, TIME & ADMISSION: Media Gallery, 360 9th St., 1-6 p.m., Free.

One of the significant developments of the past 15 years is the increased tendency to bring film out of the theater and into non-traditional settings. The works of these artists, each a self-contained visual environment, explore the boundaries of how moving images can be presented. The weekend's installations include: ***Monument*** by Michael Rudnick, ***Tirgu Jiu*** by Paul Sharits, ***Remote Sensing*** by Janis Crystal Lipzin & ***Lithic Forensics*** by J.C. Lipzin and Bill Baldewicz, ***Cine-Saw*** by William Grubaugh, ***LOOPS*** by Scott Stark, 🚻 by Louis Hock, and ***The Order of Things*** by Will Miller.

June 21, 25 & 28 — Sun., Thurs. & Sun.

SECOND SIGHTS: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

As our programming season draws to a close (prior to a 2-month summer break), the Cinematheque can look back to a number of films premiered during the past 12 months that demonstrated the breadth and vitality of film expression. It is fitting that we close our 25th anniversary celebration with 3 programs highlighting many of these films, giving an opportunity rare for short films — a second viewing.

Sunday, June 21: ***Spleen*** by Peter Herwitz, ***Dante Trilogy*** by Stan Brakhage, ***The Cup and the Lip*** by Warren Sonbert, ***Department of the Interior*** by Nina Fonoroff, ***The Straw Man*** by Alice Armstrong, and ***Mnemosyne Mother of Muses*** by Larry Gottheim.

Thursday, June 25: ***"Something is seen but one doesn't know what."*** by Keith Sanborn, ***Dead Money*** by James Irwin, ***Cable Car Melody*** by Charles Wright, ***Cinderella*** by Erika Beckman, and ***Calling Dr. Petrov*** by George Kuchar.

Sunday, June 28: ***Seasonal Film*** by Chika Ogura, ***LIMN II & III*** by Konrad Steiner, ***Fluke*** by Emily Breer, and ***Signal — Germany on the Air*** by Ernie Gehr.

The San Francisco Cinematheque, a project of the Foundation for Art in Cinema, is supported in part with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the San Francisco Foundation, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the California Tamarack Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Fund, the Columbia Foundation, the generous contributions of the Friends of the Cinematheque, and the cooperation of the San Francisco Art Institute and Eye Gallery.

Admission: $3.50 general / $2.00 students with I.D., seniors & disabled. Discount pass $12/5 admissions. To receive future calendars by mail, contact the Cinematheque office at 558-8129 or 480 Potrero Ave., S.F., CA 94110. Steve Anker, Program Director; David Gerstein, Administrative Director; Craig Baldwin, Peter Herwitz, Erika Martin & Chika Ogura, Exhibition Assistants; Lance Accord, Violet Murakami & George Spies, Interns. Poster Design: Alison Wood; Typesetting: KAZAN Typeset Services. Printed by Alonzo Printing Inc.